

GILA NATIONAL FOREST



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Reserve Ranger District
P.O. Box 170
Reserve, NM 87830

Sharma Hutchinson
Information Assistant
(505) 533-6231
shutchinson@fs.fed.us

Loretta Benavidez
Fire Information Officer
(505) 388-8245
lbenavidez@fs.fed.us

MARTINEZ FIRE USE FACT SHEET

June 7, 2006

Location: Legal description: T8S R20W Section 22, 12 miles South West of Reserve to the east of Highway 180.

Detected: June 6, 2006

Cause: Lightning

Management: **“Wildland Fire Use for resource benefit”** to meet the following objectives: 1) Provide for the safety of firefighters and the public by reducing the fuel load of pine needles and dead and down trees. If this debris is allowed to accumulate on the forest floor, the potential for a large, catastrophic fire is greatly increased; 2) Maintain the grasslands and reduce the number of piñon-juniper and small ponderosa pine trees to prevent them from taking over the grasslands; 3) Increase the quality of grasses and forbs by burning off the dead layer of grasses and adding nutrients to the ground; and 4) Improve habitat conditions for a variety of wildlife species, including elk, deer, turkey, etc.

Status: Fire Managers will be monitoring the fire. Current fire activity is of low to moderate intensity (flame lengths from one foot to three feet).

Size: 1/10 acres

Resources: One Engine (Reserve District)

Note: Flame will be visible and smoke could be present for several weeks. The fires are burning on the East side of Highway 180. Please exercise caution when driving and stay clear of the fire area. Reduce speed and drive with your lights on.

If you have any questions about the Martinez WFU, please contact the Reserve Ranger District at (505) 533-6231.